

August 1, 2002

PHARMACY PROVIDERS

MONTANA MEDICAID NOTICE

The Department of Public Health & Human Services has considered the comments and issues with the April 1st, 2002 cost-sharing changes and has implemented the following changes on outpatient drugs, effective August 1, 2002:

- A five-dollar (\$5) per prescription cap will be implemented on all cost sharing for outpatient drugs. Cost sharing will continue to be assessed on a per-prescription basis. The one-dollar (\$1) minimum cost sharing per prescription has not changed. Therefore, each prescription will be assigned a cost-sharing amount between \$1 and \$5.
- A monthly twenty-five dollar (\$25) maximum cap per client will be implemented on all cost sharing for outpatient drugs.

These changes have been designed to limit the out of pocket expenses per prescription and limit the monthly expenses for clients who are prescribed very expensive medications or those clients who require multiple prescriptions each month. Cost sharing for some clients can be prohibitive, leaving clients without the ability to obtain their prescriptions. Limiting the outpatient drug cost sharing will prevent imminent peril to the public health, safety, and welfare of the Medicaid client.

Those clients who were EXEMPT from cost sharing as of April 1, 2002 will continue to be EXEMPT from cost sharing. They are:

- Pregnant women
- Nursing home residents
- Clients under age 18

These changes in the cost-sharing program are only for pharmacy providers. Additional changes to the cost-sharing program will be implemented in the coming months. Pharmacy providers will be notified of these changes along with other providers as these changes are implemented.

These changes are being implemented via an emergency rule. A copy of which can be obtained at the department's web site at: <http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us>. Click on "Legal" and then "Department Montana Administrative Register (MAR) Notices".

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call Provider Relations at:

Helena and out-of-state: (406) 442-1837
In-state toll-free: 1-800-624-3958